

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 08872 01 OF 02 241906Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----241910Z 026085 /47

O R 241855Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8518
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08872

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, NATO, PGOB, WB, GE, GW, US, UK, FR,
UR

SUBJECT: NATO BRIEFING ON FLAG TOURS

REFS: (A) STATE 119105; (B) USNATO 3872; (C) BONN 8624

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF A PAPER FOR A PROPOSED BRIEFING OF THE NAC, WHICH WAS AGREED TO AD REF BY ALL FOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN MAY 24 BONN GROUP MEETING. THE UK AND GERMAN REPS ALSO AGREED AD REF THAT SUCH A BRIEFING SHOULD TAKE PLACE. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH REP (GAUSSOT) SAID THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS ARE NOT TO AGREE, EVEN AD REF, TO THE BRIEFING ITSELF BUT TO REFER THE QUESTION (ALONG WITH THE TEXT) TO PARIS. WE MADE POINTS IN REF B.

2. IN VIEW OF WHAT APPEAR TO BE FRENCH RESERVATIONS
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ABOUT GIVING SUCH A BRIEFING, WE HOPE THAT USMISSION NATO WILL DELAY PROMISING SUCH A BRIEFING UNTIL THE FRENCH POSITION CAN BE CLARIFIED.

BEGIN TEXT

(1) IN RECENT MONTHS THE GDR HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF STEPS

APPARENTLY AIMED AT ELIMINATING, TO THE EXTENT THAT THIS LIES WITHIN ITS CAPACITY, THE REMAINING SIGNS OF DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR. THESE STEPS INCLUDED DISCONTINUATION OF THE GAZETTE FOR GREATER BERLIN, WHICH HAS HITHERTO BEEN THE VEHICLE FOR THE EXTENSION TO EAST BERLIN OF LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE GDR VOLKSKAMMER; THE REMOVAL OF BORDER CONTROL POINTS BETWEEN EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR; AND CHANGES IN VISA PROCEDURES.

(2) IN MID-APRIL, THE SOVIET AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON AND PARIS AND THE SOVIET MINISTER IN LONDON MADE FORMAL DEMARCHES AT A HIGH LEVEL. THE DEMARCHES DREW ATTENTION TO THE ALLEGEDLY ANOMALOUS CHARACTER OF ALLIED PATROLS IN EAST BERLIN AND INVITED THE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS TO REDUCE THE FREQUENCY OF THE PATROLS PROGRESSIVELY TO NIL. ALTHOUGH THE DEMARCHES WERE MODERATE IN TONE AND THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES DISCLAIMED ANY INTENTION OF INTERFERING WITH ALLIED ACCESS TO THE EASTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN, THEY PUT FORWARD A FIRM DEMAND THAT THE PATROLS MUST STOP. THEY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THIS WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF MAINTAINING BUSINESS-LIKE CONTACTS ON WEST BERLIN. THE RUSSIANS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WISHED TO KEEP THEIR APPROACHES CONFIDENTIAL.

(3) SECRETARY VANCE, M. DE GUIRINGAUD AND MR. HIBBERT (UK POLITICAL DIRECTOR) REPLIED TO THE DEMARCHES ON MAY 3, USING A MUTUALLY AGREED TEXT WHICH FIRMLY
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REJECTED THE SOVIET DEMARCHES. THEY POINTED OUT THAT WHAT WAS AT ISSUE WAS THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF ALLIED MILITARY PERSONNEL ON DUTY IN THE AREA OF BERLIN. THEY NOTED THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT OF 3 SEPTEMBER 1971, PROVIDED THAT INDIVIDUAL AND JOINT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES REMAINED UNCHANGED AND THAT THE EXISTING SITUATION, OF WHICH THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IS A PART, COULD NOT BE UNILATERALLY CHANGED. THEY STATED THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE DECLARATION OF 9 NOVEMBER 1972 EXPLICITLY PROVIDED THAT, INTER ALIA, QUADRIPARTITE "PRACTICES" REMAINED UNAFFECTED. MOVEMENT OF MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE FOUR POWERS IS SUCH A PRACTICE. THE REPLIES ALSO EXPRESSED THE ALLIED BELIEF THAT EFFORTS TOWARD SECURING PEACE IN BERLIN AND THROUGHOUT EUROPE WOULD BE DAMAGED IF ANY ONE OF THE FOUR POWERS WERE NOT TO RESPECT FULLY THE UNDERTAKINGS CONFIRMED IN THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AND QUADRIPARTITE DECLARATION AND THAT ANY QUESTIONING OF LONG-STANDING QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENTS, DECISIONS AND

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O R 241855Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8519
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EXDIS

PRACTICES IN BERLIN, INCLUDING TOURS BY MILITARY VEHICLES OF THE THREE POWERS IN THE EASTERN SECTOR OF BERLIN, WOULD HAVE DISTURBING EFFECTS ON THE OVERALL SITUATION, WHICH WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF NEITHER SIDE. FINALLY, THE REPLIES SHARED THE SOVIET WISH TO CONDUCT CONTACTS ON BERLIN MATTERS ON A BUSINESS-LIKE BASIS AND TO KEEP THE SOVIET DEMARCHES CONFIDENTIAL. HOWEVER, THE THREE POWERS REAFFIRMED THEIR DETERMINATION TO ENSURE THAT FOUR-POWER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ARE RESPECTED, PARTICULARLY INCLUDING QUADRIPARTITE RIGHTS OF FREE MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT BERLIN.

(4) THE SOVIET DEMARCHES ARE NOTEWORTHY IN THAT, FOLLOWING THE VARIOUS MEASURES RELATING TO THE STATUS OF EAST BERLIN TAKEN BY THE GDR AUTHORITIES, IT IS NOW THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE BROUGHT INTO QUESTION ALLIED RIGHTS IN EAST BERLIN.

(5) THUS FAR, THE RUSSIANS HAVE NOT TAKEN ANY DIRECT
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ACTION TO PREVENT THE EXERCISE OF ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT THERE CAN BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE GDR GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO URGE THE RUSSIANS TO LESSEN THE CONSTRAINTS PLACED ON THE GDR BY THE CONTINUATION OF FOUR POWER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN BERLIN.

(6) DESPITE SOVIET DISCLAIMERS OF ANY INTENTION OF UNDERMINING THE RIGHT OF PASSAGE OF ALLIED MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM WEST TO EAST BERLIN, ANY ATTEMPT TO OBSTRUCT ALLIED MILITARY PATROLLING WOULD BE AN INTERFERENCE WITH THE FREE MOVEMENT OF ALLIED PERSONNEL ON OR OFF DUTY THROUGHOUT BERLIN AND WOULD BE SERIOUS. THIS IS BECAUSE ANY CURTAILMENT OF ALLIED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT THROUGHOUT BERLIN WOULD UNDERMINE THE ALLIED POSITION THAT THE WHOLE OF BERLIN REMAINS UNDER QUADRI-PARTITE ADMINISTRATION, AND MIGHT IN TURN AFFECT ONE ELEMENT OF THE LEGAL BASIS FOR THE ALLIED PRESENCE IN THE WESTERN SECTORS.

(7) THE THREE POWERS ARE DETERMINED TO RESIST ANY EFFORTS TO INTERFERE WITH OUT RIGHTS AND WILL OPPOSE ANY DEVIATION FROM STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE QUADRI-PARTITE AGREEMENT AND THE QUADRI-PARTITE DECLARATION.

END TEXT
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